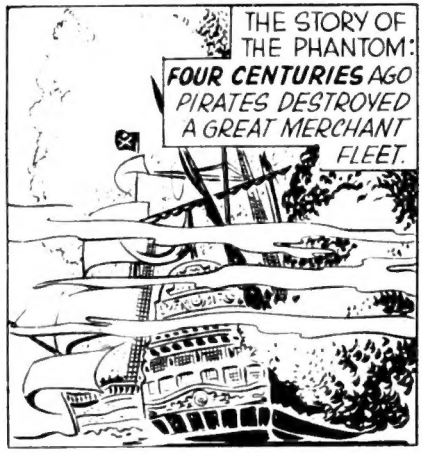

THE STORY OF THE PHANTOM: FOUR CENTURIES AGO PIRATES DESTROYED A GREAT MERCHANT FLEET.

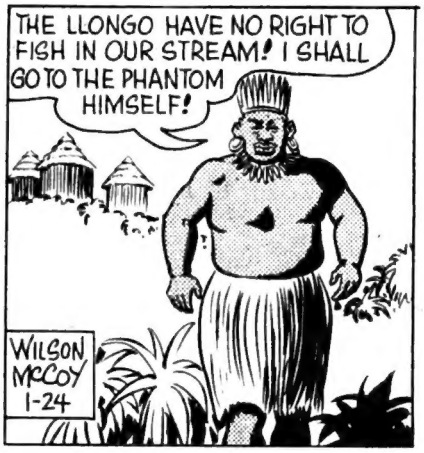
THE SOLE SURVIVOR WAS WASHED ASHORE ON A REMOTE BENGALI BEACH, WHERE FRIENDLY PYGMIES FOUND HIM~

HE SWORE THE OATH OF THE SKULL ~ THE FIRST PHANTOM.
~DEVOTE MY LIFE TO THE DESTRUCTION OF PIRACY AND CRUELTY. MY SONS SHALL FOLLOW ME.

NOW~OUR PHANTOM~THE NEMESIS OF EVILDOERS~~BELIEVED BY NATIVES TO BE THE SAME PHANTOM AND IMMORTAL~THE GHOST WHO WALKS!
WILSON McCOY 1-23

OLD JUNGLE SAYING: "WHEN THE PHANTOM IS AWAY TOO LONG, TROUBLE STARTS."

WAMBESI~GET OUT OF OUR STREAM!
THIEVING LLONGO~IT IS OUR STREAM!


THE LLONGO HAVE NO RIGHT TO FISH IN OUR STREAM! I SHALL GO TO THE PHANTOM HIMSELF!
WILSON McCOY 1-24

BUT IF THE PHANTOM IS AWAY~~?
WAMBESI FISHING IN OUR STREAM AGAIN. THE PHANTOM WILL DECIDE THIS.

PEACE, MAN OF BANDAR. I MUST SEE THE PHANTOM.
PHANTOM NOT IN DEEP WOODS. GO HOME, WAMBESI CHIEF.

WAMBESI AND LLONGO, LIKE ALL JUNGLE FOLK, FEAR THE PYGMIES~
BUT I MUST SEE HIM, ABOUT OUR FISHING RIGHTS.
GO HOME, LLONGO CHIEF.

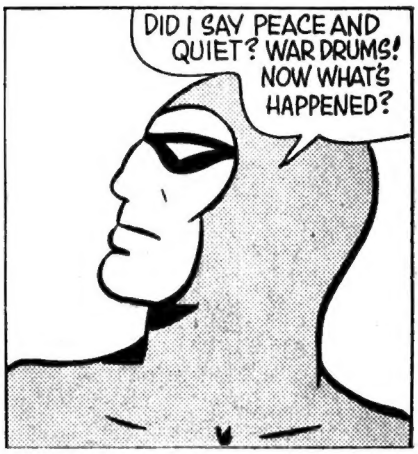
THIS IS OUR STREAM, LLONGO!
NO~IT IS OUR STREAM, WAMBESI!

AND THAT'S HOW THE WAR STARTS!
WILSON McCOY 1-25

GOOD TO BE BACK IN BENGALI AGAIN, DEVIL.
WOOF.*
*AGREED

AND GOOD TO BE BACK IN THE WOODS. HAS HERO BEHAVED HIMSELF, TOMAS?
HE MISSED YOU, O GHOST WHO WALKS.

AFTER THE NOISE AND RUSH OF THE CITIES, HOW PEACEFUL AND QUIET HERE ~ WHY DO WE EVER LEAVE, FELLOWS?
WILSON McCOY 1-26


DID I SAY PEACE AND QUIET? WAR DRUMS! NOW WHAT'S HAPPENED?

GURAN, WHAT DO THE WAR DRUMS MEAN?
WAMBESI, LLONGO, FIGHT OVER FISHING RIGHTS OF THEIR BORDERING STREAM.

SEND RUNNERS TO BOTH TRIBES. TELL THEM NO FIGHTING. I WILL MEET WITH THEM AT DAWN.
WILSON McCOY 1-27

PAH! FALSE MESSAGE. DID I NOT GO TO THE DEEP WOODS? YOU TOLD ME HE WAS NOT THERE.
HE IS NOW.

THE WAMBESI KNOW ONLY ONE LAW. FORCE! WE WILL HAVE OUR STREAM!
TOMORROW: THE GREAT SKULL

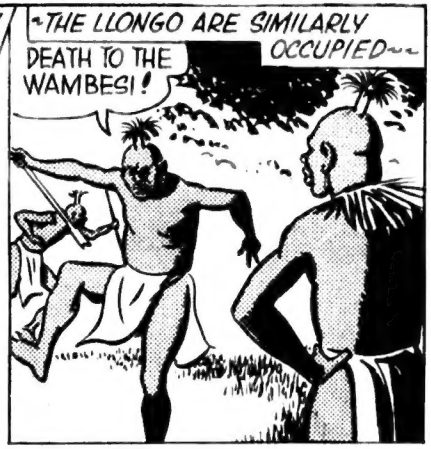
THEY'RE IN A FRENZY. IT'S TOO LATE TO STOP THE FIGHTING WITH WORDS.

WE BANDAR CAN HALT THE BATTLE~
BY SHOOTING **BOTH SIDES** WITH YOUR POISON ARROWS? NO~ THERE'S A BETTER WAY.

BACK TO THE DEEP WOODS. BRING OUT THE GREAT SKULL!
AH~~ THAT IS GOOD!
WILSON McCOY 1-28

WHAT WILL THE PHANTOM DO?

AS THE WAMBESI WORK THEMSELVES UP TO BATTLE PITCH--
DEATH TO THE LLONGO!


-THE LLONGO ARE SIMILARLY OCCUPIED--
DEATH TO THE WAMBESI!

-MEANWHILE, THE PHANTOM AND HIS PYGMY BANDAR ARE BUSY WITH THEIR MYSTERIOUS PLANS.
THE BATTLE WILL BE FOUGHT HERE AT DAWN.
THEN THIS IS WHERE WE STOP.
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WILSON McCOY 1-30

NIGHT ON THE BATTLEFIELD- THE PYGMIES HURRIEDLY DIG A LARGE HOLE.

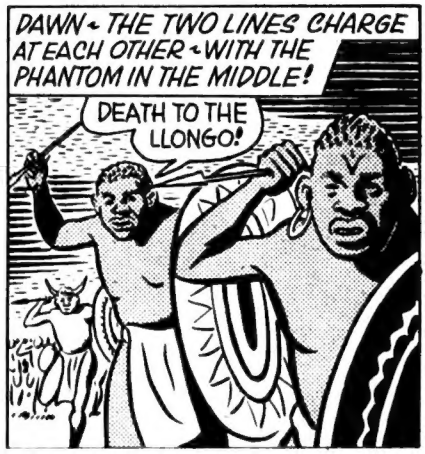
THE GREAT SKULL AND ITS APPARATUS ARE LOWERED INTO THE EXCAVATION--

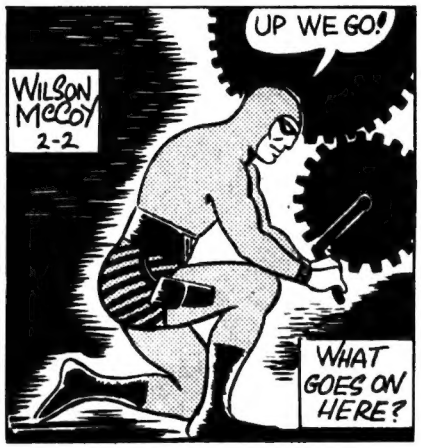
WHAT'S THE PHANTOM UP TO?
HURRY! IT'S ALMOST DAWN. THEY'RE COMING!
WILSON McCOY 1-31

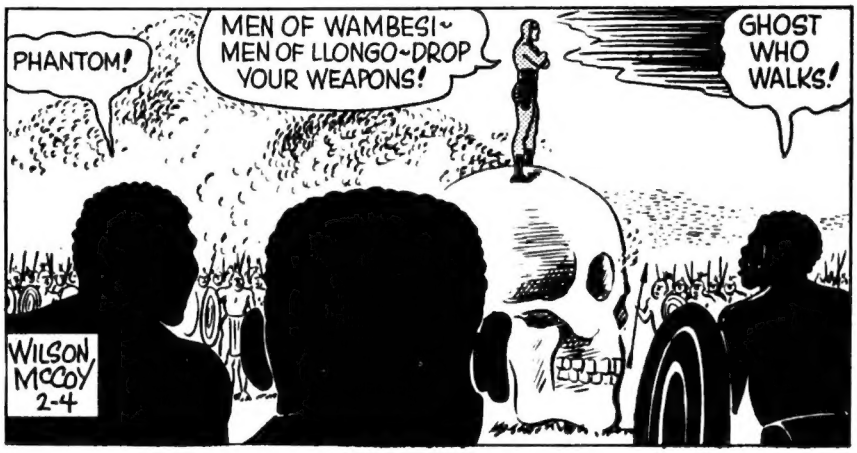
THERE THEY COME! OFF INTO THE BUSHES WITH YOU-AND BE READY!
WE ARE READY.

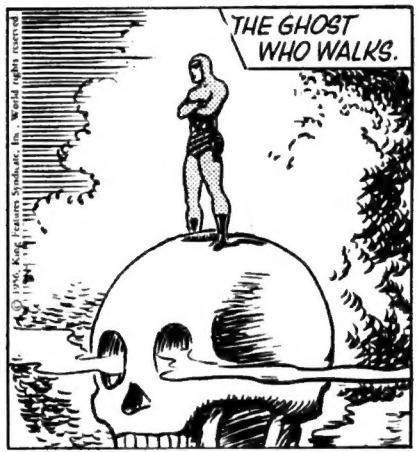
BUT YOU ARE LEFT ALONE HERE BETWEEN THE TWO WARRING TRIBES!
EXACTLY! GO, AND TAKE DEVIL WITH YOU.

IMPATIENTLY--THE WARRIORS WAIT FOR DAWN-
SEE-THE WAMBESI ON THE OTHER SIDE?
DEATH TO THE WAMBESI!
WILSON McCOY 2-1


DAWN- THE TWO LINES CHARGE AT EACH OTHER- WITH THE PHANTOM IN THE MIDDLE!
DEATH TO THE LLONGO!





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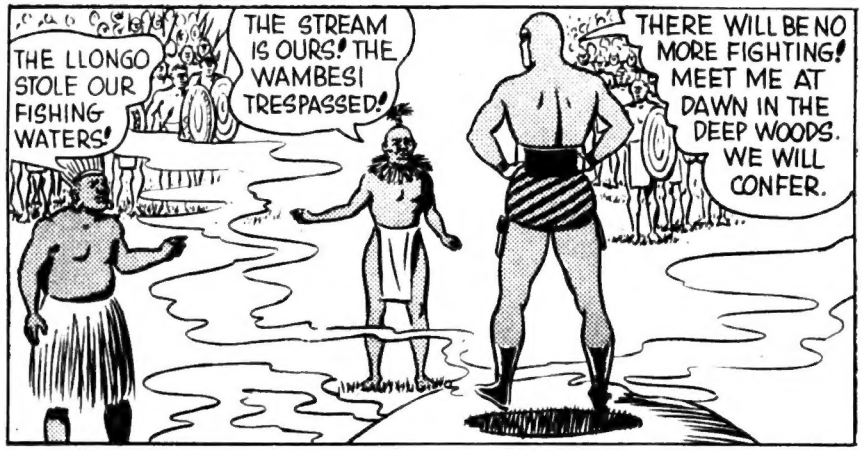
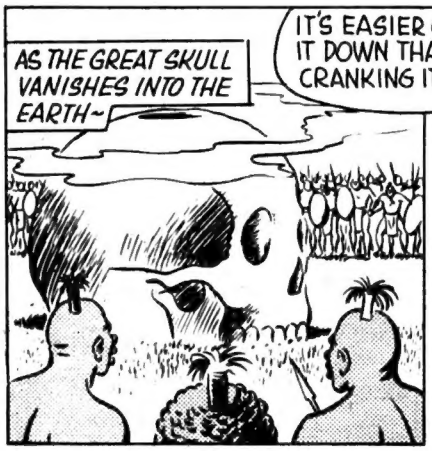

THE LLONGO STOLE OUR FISHING WATERS!
THE STREAM IS OURS! THE WAMBESI TRESPASSED!
THERE WILL BE NO MORE FIGHTING! MEET ME AT DAWN IN THE DEEP WOODS. WE WILL CONFER.

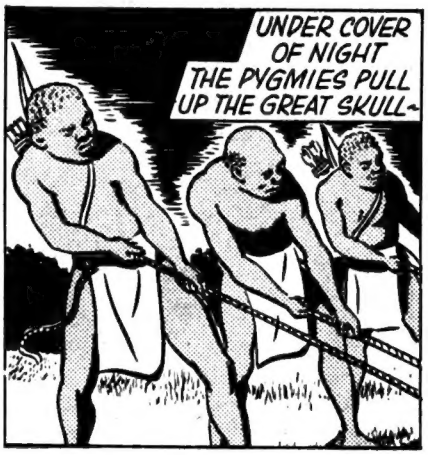
AS THE MASSED WARRIORS STARE, THE PHANTOM DROPS OUT OF SIGHT.

~AND THE GREAT SKULL SINKS INTO THE EARTH!
WILSON McCOY 2-6


AS THE GREAT SKULL VANISHES INTO THE EARTH~
IT'S EASIER CRANKING IT DOWN THAN CRANKING IT UP.

THE PYGMIES QUICKLY GATHER TO GUARD THEIR SECRET
GO AWAY, WAMBESI.
GO AWAY, LLONGO.
2-7

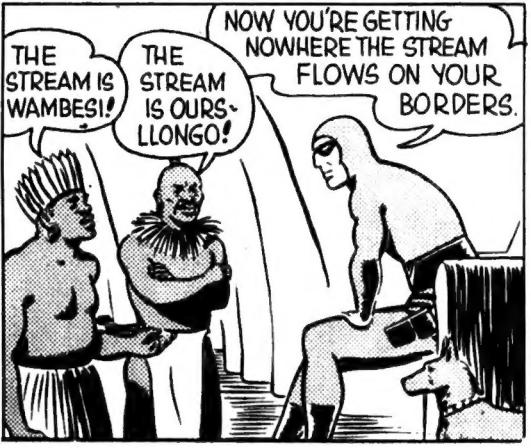
SEE THEIR EYES POP WHEN THE SKULL WENT DOWN?
JUST SUPERSTITIOUS NATIVES ~TO FALL FOR SUCH MUMBO-JUMBO.

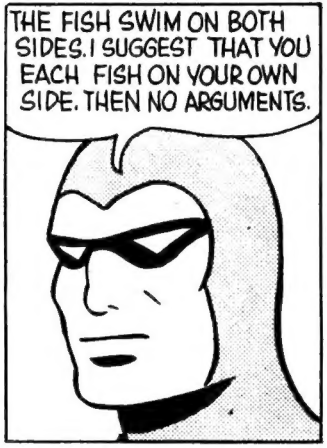

UNDER COVER OF NIGHT THE PYGMIES PULL UP THE GREAT SKULL~

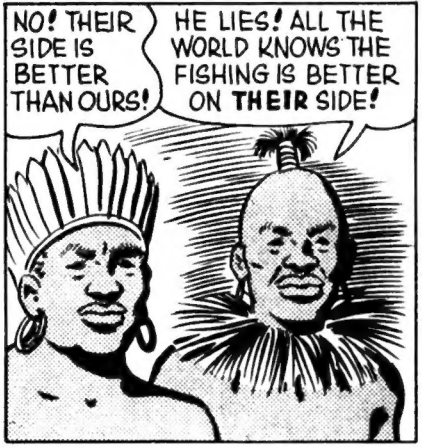
~AND CART IT OFF TO THE DEEP WOODS UNTIL IT'S NEEDED AGAIN~

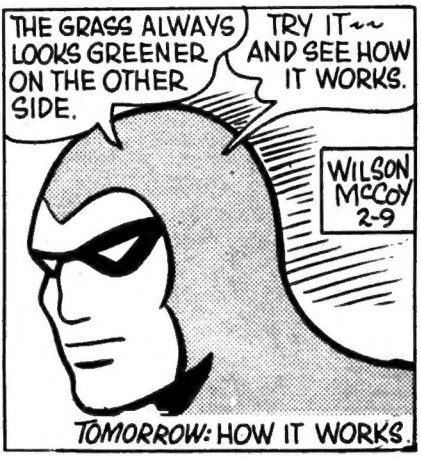
IT WORKED, O GHOST WHO WALKS!
IT STOPPED THE BATTLE, GURAN. NOW WE MUST SOLVE THE FISHING RIGHTS IN THE STREAM.

HOW WILL YOU DO THAT?
I HAVEN'T THE SLIGHTEST IDEA. IT'LL BE DIFFICULT. WE'LL SEE.
WILSON McCOY 2-8
TOMORROW: THE CONFERENCE


THE STREAM IS WAMBESI!
THE STREAM IS OURS~ LLONGO!
NOW YOU'RE GETTING NOWHERE THE STREAM FLOWS ON YOUR BORDERS.


THE FISH SWIM ON BOTH SIDES. I SUGGEST THAT YOU EACH FISH ON YOUR OWN SIDE. THEN NO ARGUMENTS.


NO! THEIR SIDE IS BETTER THAN OURS!
HE LIES! ALL THE WORLD KNOWS THE FISHING IS BETTER ON THEIR SIDE!

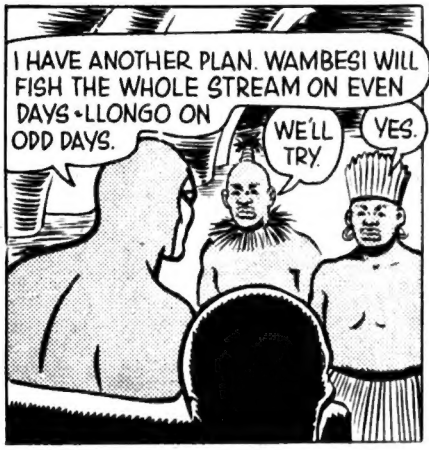

THE GRASS ALWAYS LOOKS GREENER ON THE OTHER SIDE.
TRY IT~~ AND SEE HOW IT WORKS.
WILSON McCOY 2-9
TOMORROW: HOW IT WORKS.

THE PHANTOM DECREE: EACH TRIBE SHALL FISH ON ITS OWN SIDE. THEY TRY IT~~

~YOU'RE ON OUR SIDE!
WE ARE NOT! THIS IS STILL OUR SIDE!

YOU CHEATING WAMBESI~ (GLUB) ~
YOU LYING LLONGO~ (GLUB)!

STOP THE FIGHTING! WE'LL HAVE ANOTHER CONFERENCE!
THAT DIDN'T WORK~ HAVE TO THINK OF SOMETHING ELSE!
WILSON McCOY 2-10


I HAVE ANOTHER PLAN. WAMBESI WILL FISH THE WHOLE STREAM ON EVEN DAYS ~ LLONGO ON ODD DAYS.
WE'LL TRY.
YES.

EVEN DAY~~
TOO MUCH SUN ON OUR DAYS! THE FISH AREN'T RUNNING!

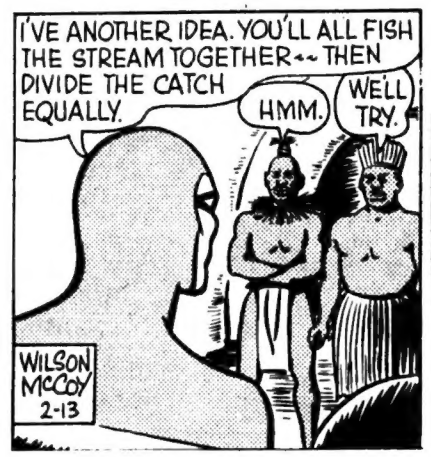
ODD DAY~
IT ALWAYS RAINS ON OUR DAY. NO FISH!
WILSON McCOY 2-11

YOU HAVE THE BEST DAYS~
NO~ YOU HAVE!
STOP~ WE'LL TRY SOMETHING ELSE.
I WISH THE DARNED STREAM WOULD DRY UP.

THE PHANTOM'S PROBLEM: ONE STREAM-WANTED BY TWO TRIBES-
YOU-!
SAME TO YOU-- DOUBLED!

ALL THE JUNGLE HEARS--AND IS INTERESTED-
HOW WILL THE PHANTOM SOLVE THIS?
NO ONE CAN. THEY WILL FIGHT.

THE PHANTOM HAS GREAT WISDOM. HE WILL FIND A SOLUTION.
EVERYTHING HE'S TRIED SO FAR HAS FAILED.


I'VE ANOTHER IDEA. YOU'LL ALL FISH THE STREAM TOGETHER-- THEN DIVIDE THE CATCH EQUALLY.
HMM.
WE'LL TRY.
WILSON McCOY 2-13

CLEVER-BUT WILL IT WORK?
THE PHANTOM DECREED THE WAMBESI AND LLONGO WILL FISH TOGETHER AND DIVIDE THE CATCH EQUALLY.

THEY TRY IT--
PUT ALL THE FISH ON THAT BANK!
WE KNOW- WE KNOW!

THAT ONE FOR WAMBESI-THIS ONE FOR LLONGO-
NO-YOU TAKE ALL THE BIG ONES FOR LLONGO!

WHAT'S MORE- YOU TAKE TWO FOR OUR ONE!
YOU LIE
OH-NO!
WILSON McCOY 2-14

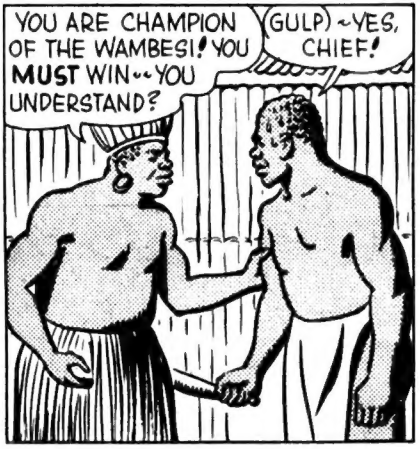
WHY ARE YOU FIGHTING NOW?
THAT THIEVING LLONGO TAKES ALL THE BIGGEST FISH!
HE LIES!
WILSON McCOY 2-15

WHAT IS THE MATTER WITH YOUR TRIBES? I'VE TRIED TO SETTLE THIS FAIRLY!
IT WON'T WORK-THE LLONGO CHEAT!

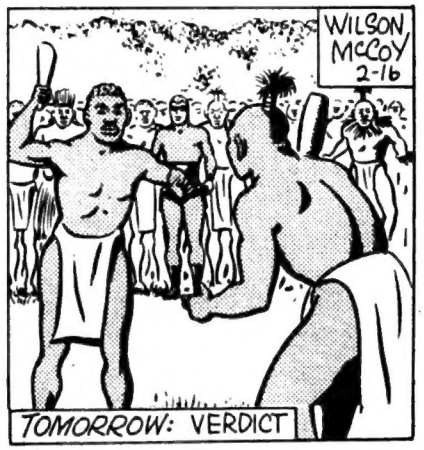
WE'VE HAD ENOUGH! WE WILL FIGHT!
GOOD! THAT WILL SETTLE IT!
STOP! THERE WILL BE NO BATTLE!

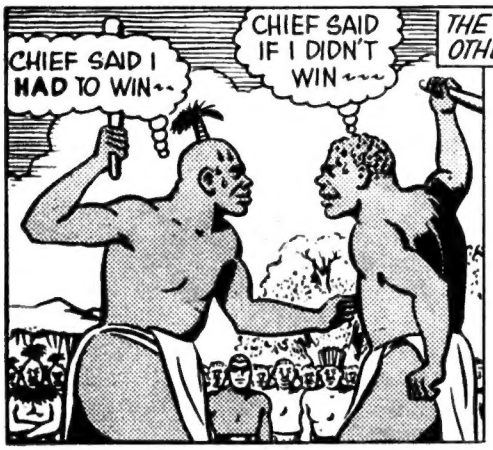
SINCE YOU MUST FIGHT- EACH PICK A CHAMPION. WHICHEVER TRIBE'S CHAMPION WINS SHALL HAVE THE STREAM!

THE WAMBESI AND LLONGO ARE EACH PICKING A CHAMPION.
WHOEVER WINS SHALL HAVE THE STREAM. SOUNDS LOGICAL


YOU ARE CHAMPION OF THE WAMBESI! YOU MUST WIN-- YOU UNDERSTAND?
(GULP) -YES, CHIEF!

IF YOU DO NOT WIN THAT STREAM FOR THE LLONGO - YOU KNOW WHAT'LL HAPPEN TO YOU!
YES, CHIEF. (GULP)


WILSON McCOY 2-16
TOMORROW: VERDICT


CHIEF SAID I HAD TO WIN--
CHIEF SAID IF I DIDN'T WIN---

THE TWO CHAMPIONS FACE EACH OTHER--THEY SWING--

GET UP-- YOU LOUT!
GET UP- YOU OAF!
WILSON McCOY 2-17

NOBODY WINS. WE HAVE TO THINK OF SOMETHING ELSE---
THERE'S NOTHING ELSE TO THINK ABOUT!
NO- WE FIGHT!

WE'VE TRIED ALL YOUR PLANS. NOTHING WORKS! NOW WE FIGHT
YES- WE'VE WASTED TIME - AND FISH!
WAIT, CHIEFS

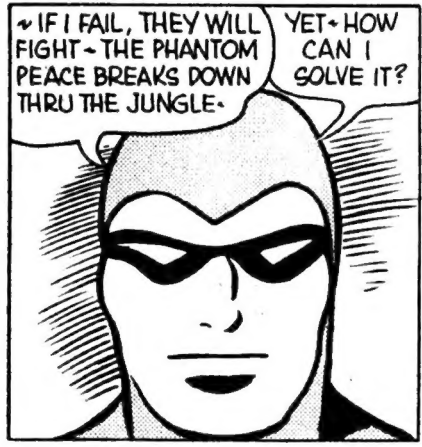
GIVE ME UNTIL TOMORROW AT SUNDOWN TO SOLVE THIS.
THERE IS NO OTHER WAY - BUT WE'LL WAIT.
YES.

ALL THE JUNGLE KNOWS ABOUT THIS DISPUTE. I MUST SOLVE IT - OR THE PHANTOM PEACE WILL BE BROKEN - AND WAR WILL FOLLOW.
WILSON McCOY 2-18

THERE'S THE DARNED STREAM. WE HAVE UNTIL SUNDOWN TOMORROW, DEVIL. WHAT'LL WE DO?
NEXT WEEK: SOLUTION

I'VE TRIED EVERY WAY I KNOW TO SETTLE THE FISHING RIGHTS DISPUTE. ALTERNATE DAYS...
..KEEPING ON THEIR OWN SIDE.

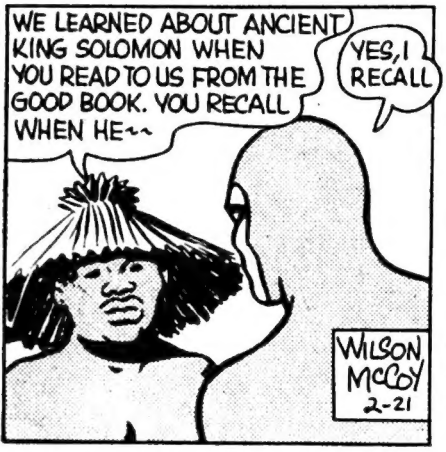
I TRIED TO LET THEM FISH TOGETHER AND DIVIDE THE CATCH EQUALLY. NOTHING WORKED. ALL THE JUNGLE KNOWS ABOUT THIS, GURAN.
WILSON McCOY 2-20


.IF I FAIL, THEY WILL FIGHT - THE PHANTOM PEACE BREAKS DOWN THRU THE JUNGLE.
YET - HOW CAN I SOLVE IT?

IT IS DIFFICULT. IT WOULD TAKE THE WISDOM OF SOLOMON.
WHAT'S THAT? SAY THAT AGAIN!

CHEATING LLONGO! WE PROMISED TO WAIT UNTIL SUNDOWN TOMORROW..
LYING WAMBESI! WHEN THE TIME COMES, RUN FOR YOUR LIVES!

REPEAT WHAT YOU SAID, GURAN!
ER - I SAID THIS PROBLEM OF THE STREAM WOULD TAKE THE WISDOM OF SOLOMON TO SOLVE..


WE LEARNED ABOUT ANCIENT KING SOLOMON WHEN YOU READ TO US FROM THE GOOD BOOK. YOU RECALL WHEN HE..
YES, I RECALL
WILSON McCOY 2-21

GURAN, YOU'VE GIVEN ME AN IDEA.
WHAT'S THE PHANTOM'S IDEA?
?

YES, IT MAY WORK! IF WE HAVE ENOUGH TIME.

GURAN - GET A FEW OF THE BANDAR - BRING SPADES AND COME WITH ME.

DIG SAND AND GRAVEL - BUILD UP THAT BANK.
WHAT IS THIS FOR?

I'LL TELL YOU LATER IF IT WORKS.
WILSON McCOY 2-22

THE PHANTOM IS DAMMING UP THE STREAM!
THERE WILL BE NO STREAM!
TURNING BACK THE WATER TO PUNISH THEM ALL!

AS THE WARRING TRIBES WAIT--
WHAT DO THEY SAY THE PHANTOM IS DOING?
WHO KNOWS? AT SUNDOWN WE FIGHT THEM!

WHAT ARE THEY DOING?
WHO EVER SAW THE POISON PEOPLE WORK BEFORE?
?

FASTER! WE HAVEN'T MUCH TIME!
WHY ARE WE DOING THIS?
BECAUSE HE SAID TO.
WILSON McCOY 2-23

SUNDOWN! NOW WE DRIVE THE LLONGO FROM OUR STREAM.
CHIEF, LOOK! SOMETHING'S HAPPENED TO OUR STREAM.

THE WATER LEVEL IS LOWERING - LESS WATER!
A LLONGO TRICK? BUT HOW?

CHIEF - LOOK BACK THERE - WATER IN THE OLD DRIED-UP STREAM BED!
TWO STREAMS?
WILSON McCOY 2-24

WAMBESI - LLONGO - WE HAVE DIVIDED THE STREAM IN HALF! NOW YOU EACH HAVE YOUR OWN STREAM!

WILSON McCOY 2-25
THE LLONGO AND WAMBESI EACH HAVE THEIR OWN STREAM - EVERYBODY'S HAPPY!

THE PHANTOM DIVIDED THE STREAM INTO TWO!
ONLY HE WOULD THINK OF THAT! HIS WISDOM IS GREAT!

I REMEMBERED THE OLD COURSE OF THE STREAM - WE BUILT A SMALL DAM, DIVERTED PART OF THE WATER - THANKS TO YOU -

ME?! IT WAS YOUR WISDOM!
NO - YOU REMINDED ME OF THE WISDOM OF KING SOLOMON - AND IT WORKED!
NEXT WEEK: NEW ADVENTURE